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Telephone 202/376-0871

SUSAN B. ANTHONY DOLLAR COIN IN PRODUCTION AT DENVER MINT

Colorado State officials, members of Congress, Treasury and Federal Reserve officials joined Director of the Mint Stella B. Hackel at the Denver Mint where the historic new Susan B. Anthony Dollar Coin is in start-up production.

The new dollar coin will be released to the public in July, the Director said, noting that the Mint facilities in Philadelphia and San Francisco as well as Denver will produce nearly 500 million of the new dollar coins before they are released in order to insure an adequate national supply.

The Anthony dollars struck in Denver will be designated with a "D" mint mark; those produced in Philadelphia will have a "P" mint mark; and the "S" mint mark will appear on the dollars struck at the San Francisco Assay Office.

The Anthony dollar is sized between the quarter and half dollar and weighs one-third as much as four quarters. Mrs. Hackel explained that the new size and weight were designed so that the new coin would be more convenient for the American people. The new dollar, while still round, has an eleven-sided inner border on both sides of the coin which allows the coin to be distinguished by touch as well as sight.

Widespread use of the new dollar will result in substantial cost savings to the Federal Government, Mrs. Hackel said. The new dollar coin costs about three cents to produce and has a life in circulation of 15 years, as compared to the $1 note which costs nearly two cents to produce and lasts about 18 months. Private industry--including major retailers, banks and transit companies--will also benefit, due to the faster, easier handling of $1 coins as compared to $1 notes. Also, the automated merchandizing industry will be able to offer a far wider range of products to consumers.

Congress passed the law authorizing the new coin on September 26, 1978, and the President signed it into law on October 10, 1978. The Anthony design was selected by Congress in recognition of Susan B. Anthony's lifelong struggle to achieve the right to vote for women. The reverse side design is the Appollo eagle landing on the Moon, a smaller version of the design used on the existing Eisenhower dollar coin. The coin was designed by Frank Gasparro, Chief Engraver-Sculptor of the United States Mint.

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